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EXAMINER
BATURAY, ALICIA

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 09/988,785	Applicant(s) KIKUCHI, TSUNEYUKI	
	Examiner Alicia Baturay	Art Unit 2155	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE **3** MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *17 October 2007*.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**.   2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *46-89* is/are pending in the application.

    4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *46-89* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☒ The drawing(s) filed on *20 November 2001* is/are: a)☒ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

    Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

    Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

    a)☒ All   b)☐ Some *   c)☐ None of:

      1.☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

      2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

      3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

    * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1)☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2)☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3)☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.

4)☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.

5)☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

6)☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1.   This Office Action is in response to a request for continued examination under 37 CFR

1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), which was filed in this application after

final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR

1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the

previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's

submission filed on 17 October 2007 has been entered.

2.   Claims 46, 54 and 56 were amended.

3.   Claims 1-45 were cancelled.

4.   Claims 46-89 were added.

5.   Claims 46-89 are pending in this Office Action.

Response to Amendment

6.   The objection to claims 46, 54 and 56 regarding minor informalities was addressed and is

withdrawn.

7.   The rejection is respectfully maintained as set forth in the last Office Action mailed on 18

April 2007. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 46-89 have been fully considered

but they are not persuasive and the old rejection maintained.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

8.   The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the

basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

> A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –
>
> (e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

9.   Claims 46, 47, 51, 53, 57, 58, 62, 64, 68, 69, 73, 75, 79, 80, 84 and 86 are rejected under

35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Rao et al. (U.S. 6,674,756).

10.   With respect to claim 46, Rao teaches a communications system comprising: a server

(Rao, col. 4, lines 6-8); a plurality of client terminals (Rao, col. 16, lines 46-55); and a

communications network that interconnects the server and the plurality of client terminals

(Rao, col. 4, line 62 – col. 5, line 6), the server including:

A memory for storing disconnection condition information for each of the client

terminals (Rao, Fig. 11; col. 14, line 45 – col. 15, line 15 and col. 16, lines 31-45); decision

means for monitoring connection states of the client terminals and deciding whether the

connection state of a client terminal corresponds to a disconnection condition for that client

terminal (Rao, col. 16, lines 31-45), wherein the connection state of a client terminal is

represented by two items of control information received from the client terminal (Rao, col.

9, lines 30-43); and disconnection means for disconnecting a client terminal when it is

decided that the connection state of that client terminal corresponds to the disconnection
condition for that client terminal (Rao, col. 16, lines 31-61).

11.   With respect to claim 47, Rao teaches the invention described in claim 46, including the
communication system wherein the two items of control information are a transmission
address and a reception address (Rao, col. 9, lines 30-43).

12.   With respect to claim 51, Rao teaches the invention described in claim 46, including the
communication system wherein the two items of control information are an application
server address and a service identifier (Rao, col. 9, lines 30-43).

13.   With respect to claim 53, Rao teaches the invention described in claim 46, including the
communication system wherein, when the disconnection conditions of two or more of the
client terminals having the same disconnection condition are met, the disconnection means
disconnects the client terminal logged in at an earliest time (Rao, col. 16, lines 56-61).

14.   Claims 57, 58, 62, 64, 68, 69, 73, 75, 79, 80, 84 and 86 do not teach or define any new
limitations above claims 46, 47, 51, and 53 and therefore are rejected for similar reasons.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

15.   The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all

obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

16.   Claims 48, 52, 54, 55, 59, 63, 65, 66, 70, 74, 76, 77, 81, 85, 87 and 88 are rejected under

35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rao and further in view of Douglis et al. (U.S.

6,487,596).

Rao teaches the invention substantially as claimed including a physical network switch

partitioned into a plurality of virtual routers (VRs) where each VR has allocated to it a set of

resources and routing tables. The system resources are not tied to a particular network

interface, allowing them to be flexibly partitioned among the various VRs. Each VR may

also be partitioned into multiple virtual private networks (VPNs) for controlling access to

certain portions of the VR. Access is controlled by filtering software that filters traffic

directed to the VR based on criteria such as source and/or destination addresses (see

Abstract).

17.   With respect to claim 48, Rao teaches the invention described in claim 47, including the

communications system, wherein the disconnection means monitors an arrival of a packet

having said transmission address and said reception address (Rao, col. 10, lines 6-8).

Rao does not explicitly teach a timeout period as a disconnection condition.

However, Douglis teaches wherein the disconnection condition for a client terminal is a non-communication time period, and disconnects the client terminal when a time period has elapsed after said arrival exceeds the non-communication time period for the client terminal (Douglis, col. 3, lines 6-9).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Rao in view of Douglis in order to enable the use a timeout period as a disconnection condition. One would be motivated to do so in order to allow a customer to avoid the burden of disconnection and reconnection by paying a premium for the service.

18.   With respect to claim 52, Rao teaches the invention described in claim 51, including wherein the disconnection means monitors an arrival of a packet that includes the application server address and the service identifier address (Rao, col. 9, lines 30-43).

Rao does not explicitly teach a timeout period as a disconnection condition.

However, Douglis teaches wherein the communication system wherein the disconnection condition for a client terminal is a timeout time (Douglis, col. 3, lines 9-26), the timeout time being stored in conjunction with the application server address and the service identifier (Douglis, col. 7, lines 31-33), and, and disconnects the client terminal when a time period that has elapsed since said arrival exceeds the timeout time (Douglis, col. 3, lines 9-26).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Rao in view of Douglis in order to enable the use a timeout period as a disconnection condition. One would be motivated to do so in order to allow a customer to avoid the burden of disconnection and reconnection by paying a premium for the service.

19.   With respect to claim 54, Rao teaches a communication system comprising: a server

(Rao, col. 4, lines 6-8); a plurality of client terminals (Rao, col. 16, lines 46-55); a first

communication network that interconnects said server and the plurality of client terminals

(Rao, col. 4, line 62 – col. 5, line 6); each client terminal including means for transmitting to

the server a log-in request that comprises an identifier (Rao, col. 9, line 60 – col. 10, line 1),

and the server including: a memory for storing disconnection condition information for each

of the client terminals in conjunction with user identifiers of the respective client terminals

(Rao, Fig. 11; col. 14, line 45 – col. 15, line 15 and col. 16, lines 31-45); means for logging

in a client terminal in response to a log-in request from the client terminal (Rao, col. 9, line

60 – col. 10, line 1); retrieval means for retrieving stored disconnection condition

information for a client terminal (Rao, col. 9, lines 2-15 and col. 16, lines 31-61) based on a

user identifier transmitted from the client terminal (Rao, col. 14, lines 19-24 and col. 16, lines

7-11); decision means for monitoring connection states of client terminals and deciding

whether the connection state of a client terminal corresponds to a disconnection condition for

that client terminal; and disconnection means for disconnecting a client terminal when it is

decided that the connection state of that client terminal corresponds to the disconnection

condition for that client terminal (Rao, col. 16, lines 31-61).

Rao does not explicitly teach a timeout period as a disconnection condition.

However, Douglis teaches an application server that stores an application supplied to

client terminals (Douglis, col. 5, lines 32-48); a second communication network that

interconnects the server and the application server (Douglis, col. 5, lines 32-48); and wherein

the disconnection condition for a client terminal is a non-communication time period during

which no packet is communicated between the client terminal and the application server (Douglis, col. 5, lines 10-31), and wherein the disconnection means monitors an arrival time of a packet that includes a transmission address and reception address corresponding to the client terminal and the application server (Douglis, col. 5, lines 32-67), and disconnects the client terminal when a time period that has elapsed after said arrival exceeds said non-communication time period (Douglis, col. 3, lines 9-26).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Rao in view of Douglis in order to enable the use a timeout period as a disconnection condition. One would be motivated to do so in order to allow a customer to avoid the burden of disconnection and reconnection by paying a premium for the service.

20.   With respect to claim 55, Rao teaches a communication system comprising: a server (Rao, col. 4, lines 6-8); a plurality of client terminals (Rao, col. 16, lines 46-55); a first communication network that interconnects said server and the plurality of client terminals (Rao, col. 4, line 62 – col. 5, line 6); each client terminal including means for transmitting to the server a log-in request that comprises an identifier (Rao, col. 9, line 60 – col. 10, line 1), and the server including: a memory for storing disconnection condition information for each of the client terminals in conjunction with user identifiers of the respective client terminals (Rao, Fig. 11; col. 14, line 45 – col. 15, line 15 and col. 16, lines 31-45); means for logging in a client terminal in response to a log-in request from the client terminal (Rao, col. 9, line 60 – col. 10, line 1); retrieval means for retrieving stored disconnection condition information for a client terminal (Rao, col. 9, lines 2-15 and col. 16, lines 31-61) based on a

user identifier transmitted from the client terminal (Rao, col. 14, lines 19-24 and col. 16, lines 7-11); decision means for monitoring connection states of client terminals and deciding whether the connection state of a client terminal corresponds to a disconnection condition for that client terminal; and disconnection means for disconnecting a client terminal when it is decided that the connection state of that client terminal corresponds to the disconnection condition for that client terminal (Rao, col. 16, lines 31-61).

Rao does not explicitly teach a timeout period as a disconnection condition.

However, Douglis teaches an application server that stores an application supplied to client terminals (Douglis, col. 5, lines 32-48); a second communication network that interconnects the server and the application server (Douglis, col. 5, lines 32-48); and wherein the disconnection condition for a client terminal is a timeout time (Douglis, col. 3, lines 9-26), the timeout time being stored in conjunction with the application server address and the service identifier (Douglis, col. 6, lines 59 – col. 7, line 16 and Douglis, col. 7, lines 31-35), and wherein the disconnection means monitors an arrival time of a packet that includes said address of the application server and the service identifier (Douglis, col. 5, lines 32-67), and disconnects the client terminal when a time period that has elapsed after said arrival exceeds said non-communication time period (Douglis, col. 3, lines 9-26).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Rao in view of Douglis in order to enable the use a timeout period as a disconnection condition. One would be motivated to do so in order to allow a customer to avoid the burden of disconnection and reconnection by paying a premium for the service.

21.   Claims 59, 63, 65, 66, 70, 74, 76, 77, 81, 85, 87 and 88 do not teach or define any new

limitations above claims 48, 52, 54 and 55 and therefore are rejected for similar reasons.

22.   Claims 49, 50, 56, 60, 61, 67, 71, 72, 78, 82, 83 and 89 are rejected under 35 U.S.C.

103(a) as being unpatentable over Rao and further in view of McNamara (U.S. 6,262,976).

23.   With respect to claim 49, Rao teaches the invention described in claim 47, including a

communications system comprising: a server; a plurality of client terminals; and a

communications network that interconnects the server and the plurality of client terminals,

the server including: a memory for storing disconnection condition information for each of

the client terminals (Rao, Fig. 11; col. 14, line 45 – col. 15, line 15); decision means for

monitoring connection states of the client terminals and deciding whether the connection

state of a client terminal corresponds to a disconnection condition for that client terminal

(Rao, col. 16, lines 31-45), wherein the connection state of a client terminal is represented by

two items of control information received from the client terminal (Rao, col. 9, lines 30-43);

and disconnection means for disconnecting a client terminal when it is decided that the

connection state of that client terminal corresponds to the disconnection condition for that

client terminal (Rao, col. 16, lines 31-61).

        Rao does not explicitly teach the disconnection of a terminal if the data volume of

packets exceeds a specific value.

However, McNamara teaches the communication system wherein the disconnection condition for a client terminal is a specific volume of data selected from the group of a transmission packet size, a reception packet size, a transmission packet count, and a reception packet count, and wherein the disconnection means monitors a data volume of packets having said transmission address and said reception address, and disconnects the client terminal when the data volume exceeds a specific data volume (McNamara, col. 36, lines 42-54).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Rao in view of McNamara in order to make use a disconnection condition that occurs if a specified packet size is exceeded. One would be motivated to do so in order to decrease the amount of congestion from any one link.

24.   With respect to claim 50, Rao teaches the invention described in claim 47, including the communication system wherein the disconnection condition for a client terminal is an allowable traffic value that specifies a level of allowable traffic for the client terminal in a predetermined period of time, and wherein the disconnection means sums data sizes of packets that have the transmission address and the reception address and are received within said period of time, and disconnects the client terminal when the amount of summed data sizes received in said period of time exceeds said allowable traffic value (McNamara, col. 36, lines 42-54).

25.   With respect to claim 56, Rao teaches a communications system comprising: a server

(Rao, col. 4, lines 6-8); a plurality of client terminals (Rao, col. 16, lines 46-55); and a

communications network that interconnects the server and the plurality of client terminals

(Rao, col. 4, line 62 – col. 5, line 6), each client terminal including means for transmitting to

the server a log-in request that comprises an identifier (Rao, col. 9, line 60 – col. 10, line 1),

and the server including: a memory for storing disconnection condition information for each

of the client terminals in conjunction with user identifiers of the respective client terminals

(Rao, Fig. 11; col. 14, line 45 – col. 15, line 15 and col. 16, lines 31-45); means for logging

in a client terminal in response to a log-in request from the client terminal (Rao, col. 9, line

60 – col. 10, line 1); retrieval means for retrieving stored disconnection condition

information for a client terminal (Rao, col. 9, lines 2-15 and col. 16, lines 31-61) based on a

user identifier transmitted from the client terminal (Rao, col. 14, lines 19-24 and col. 16, lines

7-11); decision means for monitoring connection states of client terminals and deciding

whether the connection state of a client terminal corresponds to a disconnection condition for

that client terminal (Rao, col. 16, lines 31-61).

Rao does not explicitly teach the disconnection of a terminal if the data volume of

packets exceeds a specific value.

However, McNamara teaches the communication system wherein the disconnection

condition for a client terminal is a specific volume of data selected from the group of a

transmission packet size, a reception packet size, a transmission packet count, and a reception

packet count, and wherein the disconnection means monitors a data volume of packets

(McNamara, col. 36, lines 42-54) having said transmission address and said reception

address (McNamara, col. 17, lines 8-9), and disconnects the client terminal when the data volume exceeds a specific data volume (McNamara, col. 36, lines 42-54).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Rao in view of McNamara in order to make use a disconnection condition that occurs if a specified packet size is exceeded. One would be motivated to do so in order to decrease the amount of congestion from any one link.

26.   Claims 60, 61, 67, 71, 72, 78, 82, 83 and 89 do not teach or define any new limitations above claims 49, 50 and 56 and therefore are rejected for similar reasons.

Response to Arguments

27.   Applicant's arguments filed 17 October 2007 have been fully considered, but they are not

persuasive for the reasons set forth below.

28.   *Applicant Argues:* The Office Action indicates that Rao discloses that the two items of

control information which represent the connection state of the client terminal, received from

the client terminal, are an incoming call's virtual router ID and virtual private network ID.

However, the incoming call's virtual router ID and virtual private network ID are not used to

disconnect the client terminal as recited in independent claim 46.

In Response: The examiner respectfully submits that Rao teaches the connection state of

a client terminal is represented by two items of control information received from the client

terminal (VPNs are created with filtering software that filters traffic based on criteria such as

source address and/or destination address – see Rao, col. 9, lines 30-43). The two items of

control information which represent a connection state of the client terminal are source

address or destination address, not virtual router ID and virtual private network ID.

Additionally, in response to applicant's argument that the references fail to show certain

features of applicant's invention, it is noted that the features upon which applicant relies (i.e.,

the two items of control information received from the client terminal are used to disconnect

the client terminal) are not recited in the rejected claim(s). Although the claims are

interpreted in light of the specification, limitations from the specification are not read into the

claims. See *In re Van Geuns*, 988 F.2d 1181, 26 USPQ2d 1057 (Fed. Cir. 1993).

Finally, Rao teaches disconnection means for disconnecting a client terminal when it is decided that the connection state of that client terminal corresponds to the disconnection condition for that client terminal (if the system resources in use exceed a user's access threshold, the user is disconnected...When multiple users with the same QoA level are connected to the Internet, the resource manager preferably disconnects the users within the same level in a first-in-first-out manner. Thus, the user that has been logged in the longest is disconnected first – see Rao, col. 16, lines 31-61). This renders the rejection proper, and thus the rejection stands.

29.   *Applicant Argues:* But the QoA level for an incoming connection is defined in the call policy record, not in information received from the client terminal.

In Response: The examiner respectfully submits that in response to applicant's argument that the claim language does not preclude retrieving a stored QoA level (disconnection condition) in a record on the server based on the two items of control information received from the client, the source address and destination address (Rao, col. 9, lines 2-15). This renders the rejection proper, and thus the rejection stands.

30.   *Applicant Argues:* However [the timeout threshold] is not received from a client terminal

(i.e., a modem in a client terminal), but measured by a processor associated with a modem in

an ISP.

In Response: The examiner respectfully submits that in response to applicant's argument

that the claim language does not preclude retrieving a stored timeout threshold level

(disconnection condition) in a record on the server based on the two items of control

information received from the client, the source address and destination address (Douglis,

col. 3, lines 6-9). This renders the rejection proper, and thus the rejection stands.

31.   *Applicant Argues:* There is no discussion of a user identifier transmitted from a client

terminal. Thus, Rao does not teach the feature "disconnection condition information for a

client terminal based on a user identifier transmitted from the client terminal."

In Response: The examiner respectfully submits that Rao teaches retrieval means for

retrieving stored disconnection condition information for a client terminal (the resource

manager searches a call policy record corresponding to an incoming call. Included in the call

policy parameters are a quality of access (QoA) level and quality of service (QoS) level

associated with the call – see Rao, col. 9, lines 2-15) based on a user identifier transmitted

from the client terminal (a user's login information (e.g. "user@isp1.com") may be used to

authenticate the user with the ISP's authentication server. If the ISP's authentication server is

used for authenticating the user, a QoA level for the user is further defined as part of the user configuration information – see Rao, col. 14, lines 19-24 and col. 16, lines 7-11).

Therefore, the examiner respectfully submits that Rao teaches disconnection means for disconnecting a client terminal when it is decided that the connection state of that client terminal corresponds to the disconnection condition for that client terminal (if the system resources in use exceed a user's access threshold, the user is disconnected...When multiple users with the same QoA level are connected to the Internet, the resource manager preferably disconnects the users within the same level in a first-in-first-out manner. Thus, the user that has been logged in the longest is disconnected first – see Rao, col. 16, lines 31-61). This renders the rejection proper, and thus the rejection stands.

32. *Applicant Argues:* However, Douglis discloses a connection between the user and other hosts, not an application server. Douglis further describes that the "telnet session" is between a pair of specific host addresses, not a client terminal address and an application server address. Thus, because Douglis does not describe communication between the client terminal and the application server, this reference does not disclose the disconnection condition and the disconnection means as claimed.

In Response: The examiner respectfully submits that Douglis teaches communication between the client terminal (a user) and the application server (who downloads a web page – see Douglis, col. 5, lines 10-31). A web page is usually served by a web server, which is a

type of application server. Regarding the host addresses, Douglis states that there is a well-known Internet application called "telnet," which permits a user to establish a login to a remote computer. After the login and a period of inactivity, the "telnet session" still is between a pair of specific host addresses, and at any time either the user or the host to which the user is connected via telnet may send data to the other machine (see Douglis, col. 5, lines 32-48). The pair of specific host addresses refers to the addresses of the client and the host to which the user is connected via telnet. This renders the rejection proper, and thus the rejection stands.

33.   *Applicant Argues:* Douglis does not disclose that the non-communication time period is a timeout time being stored in conjunction with an address of the application server and a service identifier.

    In Response: The examiner respectfully submits that Douglis teaches the timeout time (6 minutes) being stored in conjunction with the application server address (mail server address) and the service identifier (timing daemon request to check for incoming mail – see Douglis, col. 6, lines 59 – col. 7, line 16). This renders the rejection proper, and thus the rejection stands.

34.   *Applicant Argues:* McNamara is silent on the destination of the packets, much less a

reception address of the packets.

In Response: The examiner respectfully submits that Douglis teaches packets having said

transmission address and said reception address (source address and destination address – see

McNamara, col. 17, lines 8-9). This renders the rejection proper, and thus the rejection
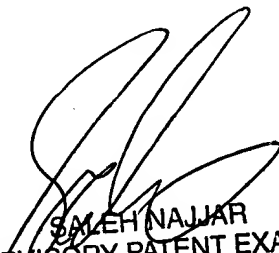
stands.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Alicia Baturay whose telephone number is (571) 272-3981. The examiner can normally be reached at M-Th 7:15 - 5pm, 2nd Fridays 7:15-3:45, and every other Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Saleh Najjar can be reached on (571) 272-4006. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Alicia Baturay
January 2, 2008

SALEH NAJJAR
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER